Patent claims

1. Method to adjust the toner supply to a minimum value in a developer station of an electrographic printing or copying device, in which charge images of the images to be printed are generated on an intermediate carrier (ZT), which charge images are inked with toner at the developer station (E),

in which the toner concentration in the developer station (E) is measured via a marking (TM) applied on the intermediate carrier (ZT) and inked with toner at the developer station (E) and a measurement signal is generated,

and in which, dependent on this measurement signal, the supply of the toner to the developer station is regulated, characterized in that

a means is used that increases the supply of toner to the developer station (E), independent of the measured toner concentration, upon underrun of a minimum value (SW) of the toner feed into the developer station (E) per time unit,

whereby the supply of toner is increased, in that the transfer of toner from the developer station (E) to the intermediate carrier (ZT) is increased.

2. Method according to claim 1, in which the minimum value (SW) of the supply of toner to the developer station (E) is established by the number (n) of the conveyer cycles (FZ) per time unit.

3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, in which a control marking (ST), increased in comparison with the toner marking (TM), is loaded and inked with toner to increase the toner removal from the developer station (E) onto the intermediate carrier (ZT).

4. Method according to claim 3,
in which the control marking (ST) comprises the toner marking (TM).

5. Method according to claim 3 or 4,
in which the control marking (ST) is applied on the intermediate carrier (ZT) until the number (n) of the conveyer cycles (FZ) exceeds the established minimum value (SW).

6. Method according to any of the claims 3 through 5,
in which it is checked at established time units whether the control marking (ST) is set, and for this case the number (n) of conveyer cycles (FZ) per time unit is checked as to whether thus exceeds the minimum value (SW), and when this is given, the toner marking (TM) is again generated along on the intermediate carrier (ZT).

7. Method according to claim 6,
in which control markings (ST) are generated on the intermediate carrier (ZT) for the case that the number (n) of the conveyer cycles (FZ) do not exceed the minimum value (SW).

8. Method according to claim 6,
in which the toner marking (TM) along is generated for the case that the control marking (ST) is not set and the number (n) of the conveyer cycles (FZ) is greater than the minimum value (SW); otherwise the control marking (ST) is requested.

9. Device to adjust the toner supply to a minimum value in a developer station of an electrographic printing or copying device,

with means to generate charge images of the images to be printed on an intermediate carrier (ZT), with a developer station (E) that inks the charge images with toner,

with a measurement arrangement that measures the toner concentration in the developer station (E) via a marking (TM) applied on the intermediate carrier (ZT) and inked with toner at the developer station (E) and that generates a measurement signal,

with means that, dependent on this measurement signal, regulate the supply of the toner to the developer station,

characterized in that a means is provided that increases the supply of toner to the developer station (E), independent of the measured toner concentration, upon underrun of a minimum value (SW) of the toner feed into the developer station (E) per time unit,

whereby the supply of toner is increased, in that the transfer of toner from the developer station (E) to the intermediate carrier (ZT) is increased.

10. Electrographic printing or copying device with a device according to claim 9.

11. Computer program product that effects a method workflow according to any of the claims 1 through 9 upon its loading and execution on a computer.